

- Wholesalers in British Columbia saw their sales jump in 2002
- Retail sales continued to rise last year
- There were more bankruptcies in BC during 2002, despite a national decline

2002 in Review

- The value of manufactured goods shipped by BC firms rose 0.2% during 2002. The forest sector was weak overall, with paper shipments dropping 11.7% despite wood shipments increasing 5.1% during the year. In the durables sector, shipments were up 2.9% as most industries saw increases. Transportation equipment (-5.3%), computer and electronic products (-20.5%) and electrical equipment, appliances and components (-34.0%) posted declines. On the non-durables side, there was more of a mixed bag, with declines in paper (-11.7%), printing (-10.6%), and plastics and rubber (-3.1%). Food (+3.2%), chemicals (+5.7%) and beverage and tobacco (+8.2%) shipments were up.

Canadian shipments also rose (+1.9%) in 2002. The increase was widespread, with 14 of 21 industries representing 84% of total shipments reporting increases. Shipments of motor vehicles led all industries, rising 5.7%. The strength of this industry benefited manufacturers of motor vehicle parts, where shipments expanded 10.2% for the year. Wood products were up (+7.1%) across the nation, as were primary metals (+8.6%).

Source: Statistics Canada

- Wholesalers in the province saw the value of their sales jump 8.0% in 2002. The automotive and the lumber and building materials sectors contributed to the good performance of BC. Nationally, sales rose 6.2% partially due to the boom in the housing market. The Northwest Territories (+35.2%) saw the largest rise in sales. Wholesalers in Ontario (+7.6%) and Quebec (6.1%) also saw their sales rise in the year. *Source: Statistics Canada*

- Retailers in BC posted sales increases of 5.7% in 2002, continuing an upward trend that started in 1999. Although clothing and general merchandise stores showed the weakest sales growth, furniture stores and drug stores posted sizeable gains. Consumer spending at retail outlets across the country grew 6.0% due to a boom year for big-ticket items and drug sales. Furniture stores (+11.4%) saw their best year in sales growth since 1987. Retailers in the territories and Prairie provinces surpassed their counterparts in the rest of the country in 2002. Alberta (+7.9%), and Saskatchewan (7.2%) experienced strong growth in sales, while New Brunswick (+3.2) and Newfoundland and Labrador (+3.2%) lagged behind the rest of the country. *Source: BC STATS & Statistics Canada*

- The number of travellers entering Canada via BC borders declined 3.8% last year. Fewer travellers from the US (-4.1%) was the leading cause of this fall, with a drop in same-day visitors (-13.4%) being the contributor in the US decrease. Overnight travel from the US increased (+3.8%). Entries from overseas (-2.2%) also lagged in 2002, as fewer people from both Europe (-11.7%) and the South Pacific (-10.5%) came to BC. The number of Canadians re-entering from the US fell (-22.8%), but more people were returning from overseas (+3.1%). *Source: BC STATS & Statistics Canada*

- The number of businesses declaring bankruptcy in BC stayed fairly constant (+0.5%) in 2002 at 1,107. Nationally, the number of business bankruptcies fell 9.0% due to decreases in the large provinces. Ontario (-11.8%) and Quebec (-21.2%) both saw declines in the number of insolvent firms.

Did you know...

BC households spent an average of \$132 a week on food in 2001, a third of which was spent dining out.

Consumer bankruptcies in British Columbia edged up 0.6% in 2002, to reach 9,531. There were 79,232 consumer bankruptcies in Canada, down from 79,453 in 2001. Among the provinces, the largest decline in bankruptcies was reported in Quebec (-9.9%). Ontario (+4.4%) and New Brunswick (+4.3%) saw consumer bankruptcies rise the most.

Source: Industry Canada

The Economy

- **Shipments of goods manufactured in BC rose in December, increasing 0.5% (seasonally adjusted).** The national average continued to fall (-0.9%), mainly due to a decline in Ontario (-3.0%).

Source: Statistics Canada

- **BC retailers increased their sales 3.3% (seasonally adjusted) in December, slightly lower than the Canadian average (+3.7%).** Consumer spending was particularly strong for furniture stores and auto dealers, while food stores posted moderate gains.

Source: Statistics Canada

- **Wholesale sales in the province inched up in December (+0.6%, seasonally adjusted).** Sales were relatively flat at the national level (+0.3%), despite strong gains in some provinces. Saskatchewan (+5.0%) led the way, with Alberta (+4.3%) and Manitoba (+2.8%) posting more modest increases. New Brunswick saw sales slip the most (-3.8%).

Source: Statistics Canada

Education

- **British Columbia university graduates of the class of 1980 with degrees in applied fields such as engineering, commerce and medical sciences earned more on average than graduates in other fields.** Five years after graduation, estimated annual earnings with a degree in medical sciences were \$56,700 for men and \$49,600 for women, the highest earnings in all fields studied. Female graduates of music, fine and applied arts earned \$19,100 while males brought in \$23,100.

The gender gap for graduates of the class of 1980 was most significant 15 years after graduation. Male graduates' estimated

earnings were \$65,600 but their female counterparts took in \$41,400. The estimated income for female commerce graduates 15 years after graduation was \$51,800, but for males it was \$72,000. The highest expected income was in the engineering and applied sciences field for males (\$78,400) but females with similar degrees had an expected annual income of only \$46,900.

Source: SC Catalogue 21-601-MIE No. 062

- **Students in urban schools in British Columbia outperformed students from rural schools on reading performance tests in 2000.** Students from urban schools had an average reading score of 539 compared to 530 from rural area students, where the OECD average was 500. This trend was similar across the country, as urban schools outperformed rural schools in every province except Manitoba and Nova Scotia. The largest gap was seen in Newfoundland and Labrador where rural schools scored 501, much lower than the 538 posted by urban schools in the same province. BC (538) posted the second highest provincial average, behind Alberta (550). The lowest average score of 501 was observed in New Brunswick. Overall Canadian schools averaged 534.

Source: SC Catalogue 21-601-MIE No. 062

The Nation

- **The leading Canadian indicator advanced 0.1% in January, after a brief upturn to 0.3% in December.** The composite index combines indicators from manufacturing, retail, housing and the stock market. The slowdown in January reflected declines in the stock market but also a drop in housing and slower business demand. The business and personal services employment indicator brought in most of the good news, recording a 0.5% monthly increase. The retail sector sent mixed messages. While furniture and appliance sales (+0.5%) saw continued growth, sales of other durable goods (-0.5%) fell.

Source: Statistics Canada

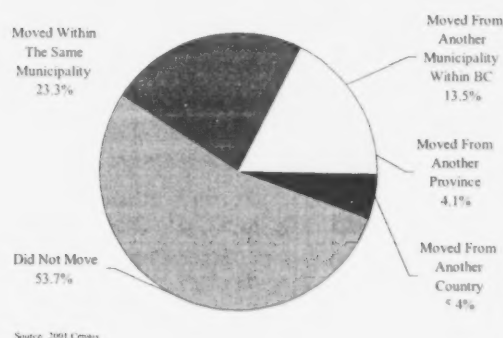
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Mobility and Migration

The results from the 2001 census (20% sample) show that close to 1.7 million people residing in British Columbia on May 15, 2001 lived at a different address five years previously, in 1996. The percentage of the people five years of age and older who moved dropped to 46% from the 55% who moved between 1991 and 1996.



Source: 2001 Census

The reduction in mobility was likely a result of the weaker BC economy as well as the aging of the population, as older people tend to move less.

Of the BC residents who did move between 1996 and 2001, approximately 50% moved within the same municipality, 29% moved to a different municipality within the province, 9% moved in from another province, and nearly 12% had arrived from another country.

In general, young adults tend to move more often than people in other age groups with those 65 and older moving the least. The most mobile age group in BC were those between 25 and 34. Approximately 75% of this group moved at some point between 1996 and 2001. While more of the people in this age group tend to move, the distance they move varies little from the other age groups. Most people regardless of age tend to move shorter rather than longer distances. Just over 10% of those 25 to 34 who moved came from another province, a figure matched by those 55 to 64 and followed closely by those 65 and over. However, over 86,000 people between 20 and 40 years of age no longer resided in BC, making up approximately 50% of those who left the province since 1996.

Figure 2. Movers by Age Group

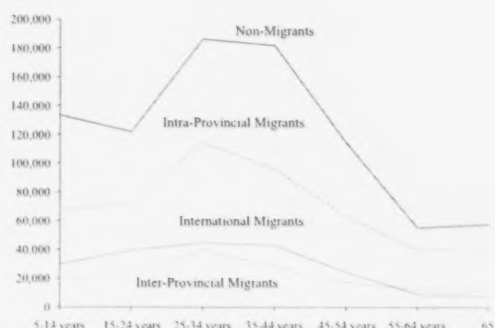


Table 1: BC 5 Year Mobility Status

Mobility Status.	# of People	% of Total	% of Move
Population <u>5 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER</u>	3,661,940	-	-
Non-Movers (Did Not Move)	1,967,860	53.7	-
Non-Migrants (Moved Within The Same Municipality)	851,485	23.3	50.3
Intraprovincial Migrants (Moved From Another Municipality Within BC)	493,215	13.5	29.1
Interprovincial Migrants (Moved From Another Province)	151,720	4.1	9.0
International Migrants (Moved From Another Country)	197,670	5.4	11.7

Source: 2001 Census, Statistics Canada

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Table 2: 5 Yr. Mobility by Age Group

Mobility Status	Age Groups							
	Total	5-14 years	15-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55-64 years	65+
Non-movers	1,967,860	251,575	253,980	130,850	303,970	377,000	261,920	388,575
Movers	1,694,085	250,040	258,150	384,835	349,290	219,985	116,000	115,790
Non-migrants	851,485	133,390	122,180	186,255	181,910	114,580	55,295	57,880
Migrants	842,600	116,645	135,975	198,570	167,370	105,410	60,705	57,920
Internal migrants	644,935	86,940	96,490	153,865	124,415	80,965	51,450	50,815
Intraprovincial migrants	493,215	67,755	72,465	114,355	96,230	63,570	39,490	39,345
Interprovincial migrants	151,720	19,190	24,025	39,500	28,180	17,395	11,960	11,465
External migrants	197,670	29,705	39,490	44,710	42,960	24,440	9,260	7,100
Total - Mobility status 5 years ago	3,661,940	501,610	512,130	515,675	653,255	596,985	377,915	504,360
Percentage of age group who move	46.3%	49.8%	50.4%	74.6%	53.5%	36.8%	30.7%	23.0%

Source: 2001 Census, Statistics Canada

BC went from being the most popular residential destination in Canada in the 1991 and 1996 period, with high positive net inter-provincial migration of approximately 150,000 people, to having negative net inter-provincial migration, with 23,000 more people leaving the province than entering. But BC was not alone in the negative net inter-provincial migration category, as only three provinces had positive net inter-provincial migration between 1996 and 2001. Alberta led the nation with close to 120,000 followed by Ontario with over 50,000 and Prince Edward Island with approximately 140 more people to have arrived than to have left. Quebec, Saskatchewan, and Newfoundland/Labrador had higher negative net migration figures than BC. Of the 151,725 people to move to BC from other provinces, most came from Ontario (34.8%) followed closely by those from Alberta (31.9%). Together these two provinces provided

over 100,000 new residents to BC.

Over 85% of the people who moved to BC from outside of Canada, took up residence in the Greater Vancouver Regional District, making up almost 10% of the population aged 5 and over. The Squamish-Lillooet Regional District had the next largest proportion of new migrants from other countries at 3.3%, followed by the Fraser Valley Regional District and the Capital Region which fell from 4% in 1996 to 2.7% in 2001. People from other countries made up under 2% of the population in the rest of the province.

Approximately 44% of the people coming to BC from other provinces moved to the GVRD, followed by 12% to the Capital RD, and over 6% to the Central Okanagan RD. For people moving within the province (from other municipalities plus movers within the same municipality) the

Table 3: 5 Year Interprovincial Mobility

Province	In	Out	Net
Alberta	242,225	122,810	119,415
Ontario	242,500	190,605	51,895
Prince Edward Island	7,895	7,755	140
Nunavut	2,515	2,845	-330
Nova Scotia	53,000	54,295	-1,295
Yukon Territory	3,735	6,490	-2,755
Northwest Territories	5,735	8,910	-3,175
New Brunswick	32,640	41,060	-8,420
Manitoba	42,600	61,185	-18,585
British Columbia	151,725	175,330	-23,605
Saskatchewan	42,605	67,535	-24,930
Newfoundland and Labrador	16,070	47,105	-31,035
Quebec	62,420	119,745	-57,325
Canada	905,670	905,670	0

Source: 2001 Census, Statistics Canada

Table 3: 5 Year Interprovincial Mobility

Province	Movers to BC
Ontario	52,830
Alberta	48,335
Quebec	13,705
Manitoba	12,280
Saskatchewan	10,820
Nova Scotia	4,825
Yukon Territory	2,450
Newfoundland and Labrador	2,370
New Brunswick	2,220
Northwest Territories	1,260
Prince Edward Island	375
Nunavut	255
Total to move to BC	151,725

Source: 2001 Census, Statistics Canada

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Regional Districts with large urban centres were the most active. The GVRD had 48% of the these migrants followed by the Capital RD with 9.6% and the Fraser Valley RD with 6.7%.

Movers from within the province made up over a third of the population in most of the Regional Districts. Squamish-Lillooet had the largest portion of these movers at 43.9%, followed by the Central Okanagan Regional District (41.5%), and the Fraser Valley Regional District (41.2%). All three of the Kootenay RDs had among the lowest percentage of people to have moved from within the province, a distinction shared with the Stikine Region and the Powell River RD.

Only three RDs had more movers than non-movers. They were the Squamish-Lillooet, the Northern Rockies, and the Central Okanagan Regional Districts with 45.7%, 49.7%, and 49.9% non-movers respectively.

The three RDs that had the most people with the same address five years earlier were Kootenay Boundary, Powell River, and Alberni-Clayoquot with 66.3%, 64.0%, and 63.7% respectively. This statistic may be misleading in that it ignores the number of people who have moved out of the area and therefore should not be confused with stability. Sub-provincial out-migration figures have not been released to date. It is likely that these areas have had a considerable amount of out-migration.

Table 5: Regional District 5 Year Mobility

Regional District	Non-Movers	Non-Migrants	Intra-provincial Migrants	Inter-provincial Migrants	Inter-national Migrants
Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District	63.7%	23.4%	10.5%	1.9%	0.5%
Bulkley-Nechako Regional District	61.5%	18.9%	16.5%	2.5%	0.7%
Capital Regional District	53.4%	25.9%	12.0%	6.0%	2.7%
Cariboo Regional District	61.2%	21.1%	14.7%	2.0%	1.0%
Central Coast Regional District	62.5%	17.9%	15.7%	2.7%	0.9%
Central Kootenay Regional District	61.1%	18.0%	15.0%	4.6%	1.3%
Central Okanagan Regional District	49.9%	25.3%	16.1%	7.0%	1.6%
Columbia-Shuswap Regional District	57.3%	17.8%	18.0%	6.0%	1.0%
Comox-Strathcona Regional District	56.1%	23.3%	14.8%	4.7%	1.1%
Cowichan Valley Regional District	59.5%	18.7%	17.3%	3.5%	0.9%
East Kootenay Regional District	58.1%	20.3%	12.1%	8.4%	1.1%
Fraser Valley Regional District	52.7%	24.2%	16.9%	3.4%	2.8%
Fraser-Fort George Regional District	57.3%	28.1%	10.7%	3.3%	0.6%
Greater Vancouver Regional District	52.1%	23.2%	12.0%	3.6%	9.0%
Kitimat-Stikine Regional District	60.8%	23.4%	12.2%	2.8%	0.8%
Kootenay Boundary Regional District	66.3%	15.5%	13.3%	4.0%	0.9%
Mount Waddington Regional District	57.1%	24.2%	16.1%	2.3%	0.4%
Nanaimo Regional District	53.7%	22.6%	17.1%	5.0%	1.6%
North Okanagan Regional District	55.0%	21.8%	17.3%	4.8%	1.1%
Northern Rockies Regional District	49.8%	26.7%	13.4%	9.7%	0.4%
Okanagan-Similkameen Regional District	55.5%	19.9%	18.3%	4.6%	1.6%
Peace River Regional District	51.4%	25.8%	14.7%	7.1%	0.9%
Powell River Regional District	64.0%	21.8%	11.0%	2.4%	0.8%
Skeena-Queen Charlotte Regional District	57.5%	24.6%	14.2%	2.9%	0.9%
Squamish-Lillooet Regional District	45.7%	24.5%	19.4%	7.1%	3.3%
Stikine Region	60.6%	13.4%	16.7%	7.7%	1.6%
Sunshine Coast Regional District	55.6%	19.2%	20.3%	3.6%	1.3%
Thompson-Nicola Regional District	55.9%	24.3%	15.1%	3.5%	1.2%
British Columbia	53.7%	23.3%	13.5%	4.1%	5.4%

Source: 2001 Census of Population, Statistics Canada

Table 6: Regional District 5 Yr. Mobility of (% of Population 5 Yrs. of Age Plus)

Regional District	Non-Movers	Non-Migrants	Intra-provincial Migrants	Inter-provincial Migrants	Inter-national Migrants
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Stikine Region	60.6%	13.4%	16.7%	7.7%	1.6%
Sunshine Coast Regional District	55.6%	19.2%	20.3%	3.6%	1.3%
Thompson-Nicola Regional District	55.9%	24.3%	15.1%	3.5%	1.2%
British Columbia	53.7%	23.3%	13.5%	4.1%	5.4%

Source: 2001 Census of Population, Statistics Canada

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 also on the Internet at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)		
	Oct 1/02	% change on one year ago
BC	4,151.0	0.9
Canada	31,485.6	0.9
GDP and INCOME		
(BC - at market prices)	2001 Revised	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (\$ millions)	130,859	1.2
GDP (\$ 1997 millions)	123,912	-0.2
GDP (\$ 1997 per Capita)	30,252	-1.1
Personal Disposable Income (\$ 1997 per Capita)	19,513	1.2
TRADE (\$ millions, seasonally adjusted)		
		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Dec	2,884	0.5
Merchandise Exports - Nov	2,298	-5.4
Retail Sales - Dec	3,380	-0.9
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		
(all items - 1992=100)	Dec '02	12-month avg % change
BC	118.8	2.3
Canada	120.4	2.2
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		
(seasonally adjusted)	Jan '03	% change on prev. month
Labour Force - BC	2,167	-0.4
Employed - BC	1,990	-0.2
Unemployed - BC	177	-2.9
		Dec '02
Unemployment Rate - BC (percent)	8.2	8.4
Unemployment Rate - Canada (percent)	7.4	7.5
INTEREST RATES (percent)		
	Feb 19/03	Feb 20/02
Prime Business Rate	4.50	3.75
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	4.90	4.55
- 5 year	6.60	6.85
US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE		
	Feb 19/03	Feb 20/02
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn \$	1.5142	1.5905
US \$ (reciprocal of the closing rate)	0.6610	0.6294
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Jan '03	% change on one year ago
BC	679.52	3.6
Canada	658.15	2.2

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, } Statistics
 Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Canada
 Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics
 For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

Released this week by BC STATS

- Employment & Earnings Trends, January 2003

Next week

- Exports, December 2002
- Business Indicators, February 2003
- Current Statistics, February 2003

